

REMARKS

1. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) - Claims 1-4, 6-20, 22-27 and 29-38

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-4, 6-20, 22-27 and 29-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swales and further in view of Montijo. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. For the sake of brevity, the rejections of the independent claims are discussed in detail on the understanding that the dependent claims are also patentably distinct over the prior art, as they depend directly from their respective independent claims. Nevertheless, the dependent claims include additional features that, in combination with those of the independent claims, provide further, separate and independent bases for patentability.

As amended, independent claim 1 recites the following claim elements, not taught or suggested by Swales in view of Montijo:

a plurality of gaming machines networked in a gaming machine network environment, each of the plurality of gaming machines having a non-true real time computer having a gaming processor, a non-true real time operating system, and a non-true real time-enabled circuit board;
a general purpose device controller employing asynchronous true real time peripheral device control, wherein the device controller interfaces between a plurality of peripheral devices and one of the plurality of gaming machines, thereby allowing the non-true real time operating system to implement true real time control of the plurality of peripheral devices.

Contrary to the Examiner's assertion that Swales teaches the majority of the claimed elements, Applicants respectfully submit that Swales does not disclose anything related to gaming machines or gaming machine network environments. In fact, the Swales reference focuses on hardware used in an industrial automation environment (Swales, 1:21-28, 1:55-2:1, and 11:19-24). Moreover, nothing in Montijo teaches or discloses anything related to gaming machines or gaming machine network environments. For at least these reasons, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is non-obvious over Swales in view of Montijo.

In like manner, independent claims 12, 19, and 24 have been amended to include the gaming machine and gaming machine network environment claim elements, thereby obviating

the rejection. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection for claims 1-4, 6-20, 22-27, and 29-38 have been overcome.

2. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) – Claims 5, 21, and 28

The Examiner rejected claims 5, 21, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Swales in view of Montijo, further in view of Evoy. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. As set forth in section 1 of this Paper, by virtue of their respective dependence from independent claims 1, 19, and 24, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 5, 21, and 28 are patentable over Swales in view of Montijo. Applicants respectfully submit that Evoy fails to overcome the deficiencies of Swales in view of Montijo. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 5, 21, and 28 are patentable over Swales in view of Montijo, further in view of Evoy.

CONCLUSION

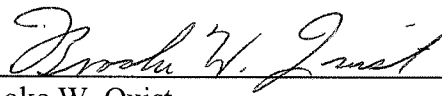
Applicants have made an earnest and *bona fide* effort to clarify the issues before the Examiner and to place this case in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of all of claims 1-38 is believed to be in order, and a timely Notice of Allowance to this effect is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fees indicated in the Fee Transmittal, any additional fee(s) or underpayment of fee(s) under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17, or to credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 194293, Deposit Account Name STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP.

Should the Examiner have any questions concerning the foregoing, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (310) 734-3200. The undersigned attorney can normally be reached Monday through Friday from about 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM Pacific Time.

Respectfully submitted,

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Brooke W. Quist
Reg. No. 45,030
STEPTOE & JOHNSON LLP
2121 Avenue of the Stars
Suite 2800
Los Angeles, CA 90067
Tel 310.734.3200
Fax 310.734.3300